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SUBJECT: NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION HEAD D'AGOSTINO
DISCUSSION WITH BRAZILIAN GSI MINISTER FELIX

REF: BRASILIA 1038

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¶1. (SBU) SUMMARY. Following up on the August meeting between Gary Samore from the National Security Council and General Jorge Felix, Minister of the Brazilian Cabinet for Institutional Security (GSI), the Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Thomas D'Agostino, had a productive telephone discussion on October 9 with Felix about nuclear security and non-proliferation. Motivated by this D'Agostino call, Felix appears inclined to visit the United States to pursue cooperation in the nuclear security area. His staff says that he would like an invitation from a senior USG official responsible broadly for nuclear matters, and they suggested Samore. END SUMMARY.

¶2. (SBU) The Administrator of the National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), Thomas D'Agostino, discussed nuclear security and non-proliferation issues by telephone on October 9 with the Minister of the Brazilian Cabinet for Institutional Security (GSI), General Jorge Felix. This conversation was part of the follow up to the August 7 meeting in Brasilia between Felix and Gary Samore of the National Security Council (REFTEL). D'Agostino and Felix had a friendly and productive conversation, and both looked for areas where their two agencies could work together on nuclear matters. Felix explained that GSI had only recently been charged with coordinating the Government of Brazil's nuclear security matters, and therefore many activities that might seem routine to the NNSA were still quite new and challenging for GSI. Felix was grateful to D'Agostino and the USG for reaching out to him and he looked forward to building a strong and lasting cooperation between the two agencies.

¶3. (SBU) D'Agostino echoed Felix's strong desire for cooperation between their two agencies. Both agreed that areas such as structures for nuclear security; responding to nuclear emergencies; and control of sensitive imports/exports would be excellent areas in which to begin their cooperation. Felix also mentioned that the United States does a good job of conducting industry outreach, which is critical to the issue of imports/exports, and that he would like to learn from the USG's experience.

¶4. (SBU) In addition, D'Agostino invited Felix to come to the United States and visit the U.S. Department of Energy's Oak Ridge site to hold technical discussions on nuclear security and international safeguards, including implementation of the Additional Protocol. Following up on that call, Science Counselor and Science Officer met on October 22 with Felix's international advisor, Miriam Medeiros da Silva, to discuss possible next steps in cooperation. Medeiros said that Felix realized that the NNSA's portfolio did not match up exactly with that of GSI, and that GSI had many responsibilities concerning security and nuclear materials that corresponded more closely to those of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and other agencies. While D'Agostino had created a

strong impetus to visit the United States, Felix wanted to meet with other agencies as well. Medeiros said accordingly that Felix would likely respond positively to an invitation from a senior official with a wider nuclear portfolio; she suggested an invitation from Gary Samore. Furthermore, she added that Felix would very much like to meet with DHS Secretary Napolitano during the visit.

15. (SBU) D'Agostino and Felix concluded the call by agreeing to establish principal points of contact to begin outlining potential cooperative activities. They also agreed that the U.S. Embassy in Brasilia should help to facilitate this dialog. Since then Felix has designated Medeiros as the GSI point of contact, and the Embassy has delivered to Felix a December 2008 letter (D'Agostino to Minister of Defense Jobim and to Under Secretary Vargas of the Ministry of External Relations) on possible nuclear nonproliferation cooperation that D'Agostino mentioned during the conversation.

KUBISKE